



Rebuilding Youth Ministry: Ten Practical Strategies for Catholic Parishes (A Rebuilt Parish Book)

By Christopher Wesley

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Christopher Wesley, director of student ministry at Church of the Nativity in Timonium, Maryland--the Catholic parish at the center of the bestselling book *Rebuilt*--has doubled teen participation in his programs and tripled the number of adult volunteers who work with youth. In *Rebuilding Youth Ministry*, Wesley presents ten indispensable strategies for creating successful youth programs where teens feel connected, stay involved, and grow in faith.

In *Rebuilding Youth Ministry*, Christopher Wesley coaches fellow Catholic leaders how to overcome common hurdles of ministering to young people. Wesley shares how he faced feelings of complacency, underestimated youth, and entertained rather than ministered in his own parish. Wesley built a distinctive program based on small group faith formation and sustained with the assistance of more than sixty volunteer adult mentors.

Adopting a tone and structure similar to the bestselling books *Rebuilt* and *Tools for Rebuilding*, Wesley lays out ten strategies that helped grow participation in his high school program from nine teens to ninety and the middle school program from forty teens to eighty-five. His insider tips include: Think More Than Pizza; Think Small Groups and Mentors; Take Back Confirmation; Go Beyond the Youth Room; Accept That It's Messy; Keep Asking Questions; and Keep Growing

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Editorial Review

Review

"When the local Church sets priorities, youth ministry nearly always rises to the top. But the solution we seem to land on generally results in a whirlwind of activities with no clear direction, offered in a dingy room, put on by someone who is too often burned out within a year and looking for 'a real job.' Youth ministry done this way is rarely taken seriously because, let's face it, it's rarely successful. Christopher Wesley offers refreshing clarity in the midst of this craziness. In a word, he offers great vision for a ministry the Church so often gets wrong, but really can't afford to." --**Chris Stefanick**, Founder and president of Real Life Catholic

"What I love about Chris Wesley is that this book isn't simply theory--he knows what he's doing and he has shared his simple and practical tools to help us build a dynamic and more effective youth ministry for our churches. This book is a gift!" --**Doug Fields**, Author of *Purpose Driven Youth Ministry*

"Chris Wesley has put together an inspiring, affirming, challenging, and encouraging book that is a must-read for anyone involved in youth ministry. Chris's love for both youth and youth workers oozes from the pages of this great book." --**Clayton Imoo**, Director, Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Archdiocese of Vancouver

"Christopher Wesley provides clarity and insight into the exciting and tumultuous life and work of a person called to youth ministry. With humor and honesty, he helps shed light on the countless challenges we face and how best to form the vision each ministry program needs to be truly successful. This book should be in the hands of every person working with youth, whether a rookie or veteran!" --**Katie Prejean**, Youth Director, Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish, Lake Charles, Louisiana

About the Author

Christopher Wesley is director of student ministry and team leader for the parish's family ministry programs at the Church of the Nativity in Timonium, Maryland. He has a bachelor's degree in communication arts, electronic media, from Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. Chris writes the Marathon Youth Ministry blog (christopherwesley.org) and is the host of the weekly Rebuilt podcast. He and his wife, Katherine, have two sons..

Michael White is a priest in the Archdiocese of Baltimore, pastor of Church of the Nativity in Timonium, Maryland, and coauthor of *Rebuilt* and *Tools for Rebuilding*, which have combined sales of more than 100,000 copies.

Tom Corcoran is associate to the pastor of Church of the Nativity in Timonium, Maryland, and coauthor of *Rebuilt* and *Tools for Rebuilding*, which have combined sales of more than 100,000 copies.

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